AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please delete claim 12 in its entirety without prejudice, amend claims 1-11 and 13, and add new claims 14-16, as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A peptide ~~composed of~~ comprising at least 23 amino acid residues from the N-terminal of the peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to ~~represented by~~ formula (I) ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~:

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-variable A-Phe-Thr-variable B-variable C-Tyr-variable D-Arg-variable E-Arg-variable F-Gln-variable G-Ala-Val-variable H-variable I-Tyr-Leu-Ala-Ala-variable J-variable K-variable L (SEQ ID NO: 1) (I)

wherein variable A represents Val or Ile; variable B represents Asp, Glu, or Ala; variable C represents Asn or Ser; variable D represents Thr or Ser; variable E represents Leu or Tyr; variables F, H, and I each independently represent Lys or Arg; variable G represents Leu or Nle ~~nLeu~~; variable J represents Ile or Val; variable K represents Leu, Leu-Asn, Leu-Gly, Leu-Gly-Lys, Leu-Gly-Arg, Leu-Gly-Lys-Lys, Leu-Gly-Lys-Arg, Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg, Leu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Tyr-Lys-Gln-Arg-Val-Lys-Asn-Lys, or Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg-Tyr-Arg-Gln-Arg-Val-Arg-Asn-Arg; and variable L represents a moiety ~~of~~ attached to the α-carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid, wherein said moiety is an $-NH_2$ or -OH ~~acid which may be modified; i.e., NH_2 or OH~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1 ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~, which consists of 23 amino acid residues from the N-terminus of the peptide ~~represented by~~ according to

formula (I), wherein variable A represents Val; variable B represents Asp; variable C represents Asn; variable D represents Thr; variable E represents Leu; variables F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; variable G represents Leu; and variable L represents an -NH_2 moiety attached to the α-carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 14, wherein ~~claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein, in formula (I),~~ variable A represents Val; variable B represents Asp; variable C represents Asn; variable D represents Thr; variable E represents Leu; ~~F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; G represents Leu;~~ and variable J represents Ile~~; K represents Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg; and L represents -NH_2~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 14, wherein ~~claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein, in formula (I),~~ variable A represents Val; variable B represents Glu; variable C represents Asn; variable D represents Thr; variable E represents Leu; ~~F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; G represents Leu;~~ and variable J represents Ile~~; K represents Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg; and L represents -NH_2~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 14, wherein ~~claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein, in formula (I),~~ variable A represents Val; variable B represents Ala; variable C represents Asn; variable D represents Thr; variable E represents Leu; ~~F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; G represents Leu;~~ and variable J represents Ile~~; K represents Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg; and L represents -NH_2~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 14, wherein ~~claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein, in formula (I),~~ variable A represents Val; variable B represents Asp; variable C represents Asn; variable D represents Thr; variable E represents Leu; ~~F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; G represents Leu;~~ and variable J represents Val~~; K represents Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg; and L represents $-NH_2$~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 14, wherein ~~claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein, in formula (I),~~ variable A represents Ile; variable B represents Asp; variable C represents Ser; variable D represents Ser; variable E represents Tyr; ~~F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; G represents Leu;~~ and variable J represents Val~~; K represents Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg; and L represents $-NH_2$~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1, wherein ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein, in formula (I),~~ variable A represents Ile; variable B represents Asp; variable C represents Ser; variable D represents Ser; variable E represents Tyr; variables F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; variable G represents Leu; variable J represents Val; variable K represents Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg-Tyr-Arg-Gln-Arg-Val-Arg-Asn-Arg; and variable L represents an $-NH_2$ moiety attached to the α-carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1 ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~, which consists of 23 amino acid residues from the N-terminus of the peptide ~~represented by~~ according to

formula (I), wherein variable A represents Ile; variable B represents Asp; variable C represents Ser; variable D represents Ser; variable E represents Tyr; variables F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; variable G represents Leu; and variable L represents an -NH_2 moiety attached to the α-carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more biologically active peptides, wherein said one or more biologically active peptides include the peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1 ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A pharmaceutical composition ~~according to claim 10, which comprises~~ comprising one or more biologically active peptides, wherein said one or more biologically active peptides include the peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1, which is present as an active ingredient within the pharmaceutical composition ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ in an amount of at least 50% by weight based on the total weight percent of the biologically active peptides contained within the pharmaceutical composition ~~entire biologically active peptide as an active ingredient~~.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A method of treating or preventing one or more diseases or symptoms selected from the group consisting of ischemic cerebrovascular disorders including cerebral embolism and cerebral thrombosis, diseases causing toxicity to the central or peripheral nervous system, cerebrovascular ischemia, thrombosis,

conformational diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, hair loss, erectile dysfunction, dementia, kidney failure, optic nerve degenerative diseases including atrophy of optic nerve and ischemic optic neuropathy, and retinal degenerative diseases, of improving blood flow, of relaxing the bronchial smooth muscle, or of inhibiting the movement in the gastrointestinal tract, ~~comprising~~ wherein said method comprises administering to a patient in need thereof ~~an~~ a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1 ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~.

Claim 14 (New) The peptide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1, wherein variables F, H, and I each independently represent Arg; variable G represents Leu; variable K represents Leu-Gly-Arg-Arg; and variable L represents an $-NH_2$ moiety attached to the α-carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid.

Claim 15 (New) A method of treating one or more diseases or symptoms selected from the group consisting of ischemic cerebrovascular disorders including cerebral embolism and cerebral thrombosis, diseases causing toxicity to the central or peripheral nervous system, cerebrovascular ischemia, thrombosis, conformational diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, hair loss, erectile dysfunction, dementia, kidney failure, optic nerve degenerative diseases including atrophy of optic nerve and ischemic optic neuropathy, and retinal degenerative diseases, of improving blood flow, of relaxing the bronchial smooth muscle, or of inhibiting the movement in the gastrointestinal tract, wherein said method comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10.

Claim 16 (New) A method of treating one or more diseases or symptoms selected from the group consisting of ischemic cerebrovascular disorders including cerebral embolism and cerebral thrombosis, diseases causing toxicity to the central or peripheral nervous system, cerebrovascular ischemia, thrombosis, conformational diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, hair loss, erectile dysfunction, dementia, kidney failure, optic nerve degenerative diseases including atrophy of optic nerve and ischemic optic neuropathy, and retinal degenerative diseases, of improving blood flow, of relaxing the bronchial smooth muscle, or of inhibiting the movement in the gastrointestinal tract, wherein said method comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11.